

# 2009 Year End Report

## Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation



## **2009 – Budget concerns still a priority.**

The Mt. Vernon-Black Township Parks and Recreation Department continued providing a variety of recreational programs for Mt. Vernon. The Department personnel consisted of Director – John Tate, Recreation Manager – Adam Jines, Pool/Community Center Director – Ruth Fulwider, Maintenance Supervisor – Darin Toler, Maintenance Foreman – Brad Utley and Administrative Assistant – Debra Scott. The department also employed several part-time and seasonal employees throughout the year.

The Parks Director reported to the Parks Board every third Wednesday of each month (meetings were switched to Thursdays in the fall). The agenda for these meetings consisted of old business from previous meetings and any new business or issues to be addressed. The 2009 Parks Board Members were Ron Bennett (President), Linc Baro, Kelly Cox, Don Oeth and Synda Waters.

The department continued to maintain five public parks in Mt. Vernon. The parks are Brittlebank Park, Fairview Park, Kimball Park, Kiwanis Park and Sherburne Park. The department also maintained the Community Center and Parks Office, Brittlebank Pool and Kiwanis Senior Citizen Center.

## **A Glance at 2009**

The year of 2009 did not bring much change to the Parks and Recreation Department. After making some headway with improvements over a four to five year span, the department for the third year in a row continued to wade through the property tax saga. For the past three years the department has been operating on loans to provide its services to the residents of Mt. Vernon and Black Township. We looked for ways to cut spending and staffing without cutting any programs or services to the community. The Parks staff worked hard at doing this and had a pretty good year with all things considered. We are hoping the county will be back on track in 2010 and we can tackle some of the improvement projects on the table.

In 2009 we saw some programs have slight decreases from numbers and revenue from previous years. Once again it is hard to say how the economy affected these numbers. We have attached participation numbers and revenues from 2009 and past years to compare. We have also included a complete list of programs from 2009.

In the fall of 2009 the department worked with the high school basketball coaches to provide youth basketball leagues and look forward to taking the programs over in 2010. The department has set up a non-reverting account to handle the revenue and added expenses from the youth basketball program. We look forward to continuing to provide the same youth sports we have in the past and will explore adding new programs in the future. See the attached report (prepared by Adam Jines, Recreation Manager) for more information concerning youth sports.

The Community Center and Brittlebank Pool both continued to provide much needed recreational opportunities and programs to the youth (and adults) of Mt. Vernon. Look to the attached document for 2009 highlights from both facilities (prepared by Ruth Fulwider, CC/Pool Manager). The one major improvement the department did make in 2009 was the new and improved filtration and chemical system to the wading pool at Brittlebank Pool. These were not only safety improvements, but were required by law to replace and improve the drain system at the pool. The pool saw over 4000 daily admission guests in 2009 and had over 40 families with family passes. The month of July overall was a cooler month then normal and caused the pool to close four days because of rain and cool temps. Overall, the season was a successful one. We all look forward to a new year and looking for new ways to provide service at the Community Center and Brittlebank Pool.

## **2010 – Looking for the light at the end of the tunnel.**

Heading into the new decade, we are hoping the county will get back on track and our appropriations will come in on time. This will allow us to continue making needed improvements to our parks and facilities and to continue providing the services we do. Each year we put the budget as a priority and we do our best to reduce costs where we can. A few of the projects and purchases we look forward to in 2010 are the following. Masonry repairs to the Armory Building, purchase of new skates for the community center, Shelter #1 painted, purchase and trade of new Exmark mower and the purchase of new picnic tables for Shelter #1. Other projects we look to make are improving the playing surfaces of our three ball fields. We thank each resident for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to doing so again in 2010.

Respectfully,

John D. Tate  
Parks Director

## **2009 Parks and Recreation Programs**

**Spring Youth Soccer  
Junior Kickers Soccer Program  
Spring Break Activities –Community Center  
Brittlebank Barracuda Swim Team  
American Red Cross Swim Lessons  
Hershey Track and Field Meet  
Boys and Girls Pitching Machine  
Intro to T-ball  
Coed T-ball  
Adult Softball  
Adult Sand Volleyball  
Kids All-American Fishing Derby  
Pepsi Pitch, Hit and Run  
Private Swimming Parties  
Back to School Party – Community Center  
Pumpkin Festival – Community Center  
Christmas Party – Community Center  
Adult Flag Football (offered)  
Youth Flag Football  
Fall Youth Soccer  
Tackle/Cub Football  
Youth Floor Hockey (offered)  
Punt, Pass and Kick Event  
Open Roller Skating – Community Center  
Private Skating Parties  
Church League Volleyball  
Boys and Girls Youth Basketball**

